

digitally record the image of the intended recipient's mail. It is an advantage that the image is sent from said service's computer to said intended recipient's computer via a network. It is an advantage that said recipient can decide which mail to receive and which mail to discard based upon the digital images. It is an advantage that the user's computer sends elections to the scanning service's
5 computer via a network such that the scanning service can exercise the intended recipient's elections. It is an advantage that the scanning service sends only the hardcopy mail wanted by the intended recipient. It is an advantage of the present invention that unwanted mail is discarded by the scanning service prior to ever being received by its intended recipient. Thus the object of minimizing unwanted mail and minimizing concomitant potential for terrorist exposures are dramatically
10 achieved by the present invention.

It should be noted that other configurations are possible using the art described herein. While my above description describes many specifications, these should not be construed as
15 limitations on the scope of the invention, but rather as an exemplification of one preferred embodiment thereof. Many other variations are possible. For example, many means of digitizing images are well known and are not described herein. Many means for physically processing, storing and routing mail are well known and are not described herein. Many software programming languages can be used and one skilled in the art can easily compose the necessary software and GUI's.